

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/808,697

Examiner

Yogesh C. Garg

Applicant(s)

GOLDTHWAITE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,8-31,34-36 and 38-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


YOGESH C. GARG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment received on 7/21/2006 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 1 and 22 are amended. Currently claims 1-5, 8-31, 34-36 and 38-44 are pending for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 8-31, 34-36 and 38-44 are allowed. Claims 1 and 22 are independent. Claims 2-5, 8-21, and 23-31, 34-36, 38-44 are dependencies of claims 1 and 22 respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-5, 8-31, 34-36 and 38-44

The prior art, when considered individually or combined with another prior art, fails to teach or fairly suggest a system for generating and storing one or more prepaid electronic vouchers comprising inter alia, a mobile communication device comprising a subscriber identification module (SIM') card slot and being adapted to connect to a voucher host system via a network connection and to download prepaid electronic vouchers from the host system, a smart card reader/writer module adapted to electrically connect to said SIM card slot of said mobile communication device,

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wherein said smart card reader/writer module comprises means for receiving a voucher smart card, means for storing information onto said voucher smart card, means for reading information from said voucher smart card and is "adapted to receive said downloaded prepaid electronic vouchers from ,said mobile communication device and to store said prepaid electronic vouchers in said voucher smart card (see independent claim 1) and as further supported by the applicant's specification.

Since the limitations of the process claim 22 are very closely parallel to the limitations of claim 1, the reasons for allowance for claim 22 is based on the same rationale as for claim 1 above.

Since claims 2-5, 8-21, and 23-31, 34-36, 38-44 are dependencies of claims 1 and 22 respectively, the reasons for allowance for all the dependent claims are same as for claims 1 and 22 given above.

3. Discussion of most relevant prior art:

(i) Combined prior art teachings of Nakamura et al. (US Publication 2004/0093309), Takemura (US Patent 5,923,082) and Phillips (US Patent 6,240,301) as cited in the last office action mailed on 5/24/2006.

Nakamura discloses and fairly suggests a voucher host system adapted to generate said prepaid electronic vouchers (see paragraph 0123 and Fig.1: a ticket database server for managing data concerning electronic tickets, an electronic ticket-operation key server, -a security server for authenticating/downloading IC cards, and an

application server for receiving Internet portal services are installed in the electronic ticket platform center (Nakamura: paragraph 0123), a voucher smart card (paragraph 0120, Fig. 10A : a non-contact IC card as an example of the information storage chip), a mobile communication device comprising an IC card slot and being adapted to connect to said voucher host system via a network connection and to download said prepaid vouchers and a smart card reader/writer module adapted to electrically connect to said mobile communication device (Nakamura suggests, see paragraphs 0114, that the ticket seller/supplier could be either an electronic ticket seller 130 or a store terminal 150 and if it is an electronic ticket seller 130 then it could be implemented by a portable terminal device including a reader/writer to read and write electronic ticket information on information storage chip, that is the voucher smart card recited in the claims (see paragraphs 0155-0157) and it would be obvious that the portable terminal device could be a laptop computer or a telephone. Also see paragraphs 0119, 0182 & 340 which discloses that the non-contact IC card, that is the information storage chip having a rewritable surface is mounted on a portable device, such as cellular phone for the convenience of the user to carry the electronic ticket information to the event venue after purchasing the ticket. The information of prepaid electronic tickets, that is prepaid vouchers is downloaded on the IC card, that is the storage information chip, via a wireless communication network see paragraphs 0133- 0135 from a host server).

Takemura teaches an IC card reading/writing device which can accept a smart IC card (see Abstract and col.1, line 48-col.2, line 5) and this reading/writing device can be inserted into and removed from an IC card slot.

Phillips discloses a wireless communication device designed to house electronics for a wireless communication mobile terminal under any one of a variety of multiple standards, such as GSM communications electronics with a traditional SIM module/slot and PDC communications electronics with a diversity antenna module for PDC operation using the same card slot (see col.1, lines 48-67).

However, Nakamura et al., Takemura and Phillips singly or combined fails to anticipate or render obvious the application's above-mentioned underlined unique features as a whole and further as argued by the Applicant (see Remarks filed on 7/21/2006, pages 10-13 (on page 13, *"Accordingly, since Nakamura or Takemura, or Phillips neither alone nor in combination suggest a system for generating and storing prepaid electronic vouchers that includes a card reader/writer and a mobile communication device mid where the card reader/writer is attached to a SIM card slot of the communication device, the 35 USC 103 rejection of claims 1-5, 8-31, 34-36, and 38-44 over Nakamura in view of Takemura and further in view of Phillips is overcome. This particular configuration has the following two advantages: a) universality in the connectivity of the card reader/writer by connecting it to the SIM card slot,, rather than to a parallel or serial port of the communication device; and b) secure authentication through the SIM card module of the communication device. In view of the above, h is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance."*).

(ii) US Publication 2004/0116155A1 to Aisenberg discloses a mobile cellular phone including a SIM slot to house a SIM card to transfer information from the internal memory of the cellular phone to the SIM card (see at least paragraphs 0034-0035) but fails to anticipate or render obvious the application's above-mentioned unique features.

(iii) US Patent 6,612,498 to Lipponen discloses a mobile station including an interface to which either a small SIM card or MMC card can be electronically connected wherein to connect the small SIM card an adaptor of the size of the MMC card is used (see at least Abstract, col.1, lines 10-56, and col.2, line 61-col.3, line 64) but fails to anticipate or render obvious the application's above-mentioned unique features.

Conclusion

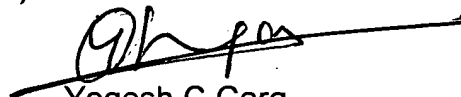
4 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yogesh C Garg', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Yogesh C Garg
Primary Examiner
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YCG
11/21/2006